FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 10-16-2017 BY: F89M99K22

Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney

August 24, 1951

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAJOR GENERAL CLAIRE CHENNAULT
REGISTRATION ACT
CHINA LOBBY

Reference is made to your communication dated July 23, 1951, under the above caption, your reference JMM:WEF:JXK:rc, 149-06-2-7.

A review of the files of this Bureau fails to reflect any additional information not previously furnished to you, concerning General Chennault, with the exception of a copy of a message dated February 27, 1942, furnished by censorship, originating at Kunming, addressed to Honorable James Roe, Monroe, Louisiana, from Colonel Chennault, reading as follows:

"SECRET IF BOMBER FUND PERMITS REQUEST LOCKHEED GYPE FOUR FOURTEEN STOP STOP SUGGEST CONTACT MINISTER T. V. SOONG WASHINGTON TO ARRANGE DELIVERY THIS TYPE FROM LOT NOW ON HAND FOR BRITAIN ALSO ARRANGE PILOT AND CREW TO DELIVER HERE STOP CONDITIONS HERE IDEAL FOR SURPRISE ATTACKS WITH DELIVERY EXPEDITED REGARDS"

You are requested to advise if you still desire investigation in this matter; if so, please furnish the specific allegations and the specific nature of the investigation desired.

RECORDED - 12 [redacted]

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COMM — FBI
AUG 25 1951
MAILED 26

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: July 23, 1951

FROM: James M. McInerney, Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

JMM:WEF:JXK:rc

SUBJECT: MAJOR GENERAL CLAIRE CHENNAULT
Registration Act
China Lobby

149-06-2-7

With reference to the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, and with respect to the alleged existence in this country of a so-called China Lobby, the Bureau is requested to forward to the Division any information its files may contain, not heretofore furnished, regarding Major General Claire Chennault, 711 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

The Bureau is further requested to conduct investigation to determine whether the subject is acting in the United States as the agent of the Chinese Nationalist Government or any agency thereof. Whether the Chinese Nationalist Government gives financial support to, controls, or directs the subject in any manner would be of particular importance in this regard.

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JUL 26 1951

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R 465 APR 14 1961

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W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

DONAHOE

Chennault 'Ghost' Raps U.S. Aides

CAPITAL REPORT: INCOMPETENCE ABROAD

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—Stashed away in the security of a law office vault here in Washington are 12 reels of tape recordings which will long haunt the friends of Communist China in our official circles.

They are recordings in the voice of the late fighting General Claire Chennault, of Flying Tiger fame, made last February while the general was being hospitalized at Walter Reed Hospital here, in the last stages of his fatal battle against lung cancer.

As a friend and champion of Nationalist China, who fought the Institute of Pacific Relations' pro-Communist policy for China within the State Department General Chennault knew the whole conspiracy behind the sellout of Chiang Kai-shek in minute detail.

From memory and from notes, he knew the people and the parts they played, and the sabotage of the military aid program from the United States which had been ordered by Congress but which never went through.

All this he recorded in his hospital room, with the help of his long time friend Edward B. Lockett, writer and former Hearst State Department correspondent, and at the instance of an even longer time friend and controversial figure in the Roosevelt New Deal, Thomas G. (Tommy the Cork) Corcoran.

LIKE GENERAL CHENNAULT, Tommy Corcoran was and is a devout supporter of Chiang Kai-shek. It is he who will arrange publication of the Chennault memoranda, as soon as the 18 hours of aggregate tapes can be transcribed and edited.

There are additional Chennault papers, made in his last months, in the hands of the House Un-American Activities Committee as late as last April which are of no less importance than the recordings.

These are the unexpurgated transcripts of an unpublicized "consultation" which the committee and staff members had with the general in his hotel room at the Willard Hotel, on which occasion he discussed the cause for the failures of American diplomacy over the world, not only in the Far East but elsewhere as well.

Part of this testimony has been published as a committee document, and is available to the public, but the most pointed and acrid of his analysis was off-the-record for personal reasons.

The kernel of it was that the United States Foreign Service is infested with incompetents and social dilettantes who overdrink, overplay, and overintrigue, and that the interests of the United States would be better served if we had no representation at all in many countries rather than the representation we do have.

He said also that what is true of the State Department is even more dangerously true of the International Cooperation Administration (Foreign Aid program) and the United States Information Service.

HE DESCRIBED A system of "post-hopping," in which personnel get themselves assigned for a few months to one country, then get themselves moved to another, and continue this process until they have enjoyed an around-the-world luxury tour at government expense, never contributing any worthwhile service anywhere.

Particularly in the Asian assignments, he said, the American personnel are excessive in their partying and exhibitionism, and in daily operation are essentially adjuncts of the British mission.

They associate almost exclusively with British personnel, have little contact with the native population professionally and none at all, socially. He said this is due largely to a standard inability to speak the language and a lack of primary training in this connection.

Both the recordings and the off-the-record testimony go into details and individual personalities.

Could be that the general's ghost is more to worry about than the general himself, when he was alive. He had some qualms; the ghost does not.

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N. Y. Journal-American
N. Y. Mirror 16
N. Y. Daily News
N. Y. Times
Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

Date AUG 4 1958

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117 AUG 11 1958

EX-135

59 AUG 12 1958

SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor Nomstrom Room 521

Subj: Claire Chennault

___ Exact Spelling
___ All References
✓ Subversive Ref.
___ Main File
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Searchers Initial JAR
Date 2-13

FILE NUMBER	SERIALS
LT 94-36511-98 and 99 CR	
47-31751-3	NP
94-8-64-D	Wash Daily News 4-2-48
	News 4-7-48
	News 4-8-48
Claire Lee	
LT 94-36511-98 and 99	
94-3-4-1115-13	NP
	(1)

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SERVICE UNIT 4-22a
SEARCH SLIP

Supervisor Little Room 1521

Subj: Major Gen. Claire Chennault

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FILE NUMBER	SERIALS
[redacted]	New file
100-350512-232	NP
[redacted]	Daily People's World NP
121-4022-28	NP cc D/R
100-102224-36	NP cc D/R
100-342058-57	NP
100-64700-271	Enc p 2177 NP
94-36511-98	Enc p 42 "Claire Chennault" NP
~~47-31701-3~~	
100-24628-2762	NP
[redacted]	NP
100-354477-89	cc D/R
[redacted]	

Will look into

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SERVICE UNIT 4-22a
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Supervisor Little Room 1521

Subj: Major Gen. Claire Chennault

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Date 7-30

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FILE NUMBER	SERIALS
[redacted]	3-31-48 Wash. Daily News
100-24628-A	Wash. Post NY 4-13-50
[redacted]	NP
62-73361-406	NP
100-97-8-A	Daily Workers 8-16-48
94-8-64-A	Claire L. ~~Wash Daily News~~ ~~4-2-48~~
[redacted]	Daily People World 2-3-48
~~94-8-64 A~~	~~Wash Daily News~~ ~~4-7-48~~
~~94-8-64 A~~	~~Wash Daily News~~ ~~4-8-48~~
[redacted]	4-8-48 Wash. Daily News
[redacted]	4-6-48 4-5-48 Wash. Daily News
[redacted]	3-30-48 Wash. Daily News
100-50106-110	cc D/R

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SERVICE UNIT 4-22a
SEARCH SLIP

Supervisor Little Room 1521

Subj: Major Gen. Claire L. Chennault

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FILE NUMBER	SERIALS
	(3-31-48) (4-1-48) (3-31-48) N Wash. Wash. Mem
[redacted]	
100-50618-66, 68 NP NP	p11
Claire Lee	
~~94-36511-98~~	~~Enc p40~~
100-52843-27	cc D/R
~~94-3-4-1115-13~~	
[redacted]	cc D/R
Clare	
100-267360-215	p41 NP
[redacted]	
Colonel	
62-62736-3-141	Sub
	Written 8/22 (2)

Initialed

December 8 1951

MAJOR GENERAL CLAIR CHENNAULT
REGISTRATION ACT
Bufile [redacted]

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BACKGROUND:

Major General Chennault was adviser to Chiang Kai-shek while in retirement from the U. S. Army during the period from 1937 to 1941.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT:

By memorandum dated July 23, 1951, Assistant Attorney General McInerney requested information in Bureau files concerning Chennault not previously furnished. The memorandum further requested the Bureau to conduct investigation to determine whether Chennault was acting in the United States as the agent of the Chinese Nationalist Government.

By memorandum dated 8/24/51 McInerney was furnished additional information not previously made available concerning Chennault. It was also requested that he advise whether he still desired investigation in the matter and, if so, to furnish specific allegations and the specific nature of the investigation desired.

To date no further requests have been received from the Department.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-14-83 BY SP1 [illegible]

223,463

RECORDED - 111

INDEXED - 111

DEC 28 1951

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61 JAN 3 1952

ENCLOSURE

LATE GEN. CHENNAULT

In life he had qualms but his "ghost" speaks loud and clear.

0-19 (Rev. 10-29-57)

CAPITAL REPORT

Chennault Has the Last Word

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, June 27.—It was a dramatic session of the House Un-American Activities Committee that took place in room 730 of Washington's Willard Hotel, with Rep. Bernard W. Kearney, New York Republican, presiding.

The witness was an old China hand who had left a hospital bed in New Orleans to come to Washington just for this purpose.

It was Major Gen. Claire Lee Chennault, head of the Flying Tigers in the Far East in World War II and one of the nation's all-time air heroes. The testimony was probably his last. Two years ago he had a lung removed because of cancer. There have been recurrences and further operations, and for the last half of the meeting he could not talk above a whisper.

But the General still had his boots on and he still had words to leave about the insanity and suicide of our Far Eastern policy.

The Communists won the Korean War, he said. The outcome was a permanent division of Korea. As long as the Communists can enjoy their foothold there, they won the war.

Chairman Kearney wanted to know why.

Gen. Chennault: In my opinion it was because we did not show a determination to win it on our side. On the other hand, we did evidence a determination NOT to win.

Chairman Kearney: When you say "we" do you mean the United States or the United Nations?

General Chennault: I mean the United Nations first, because we fought under that banner, but the United States was the controlling force. . . . We had the great majority of men and equipment and we spent the most money. It was really our show if we had insisted upon it, but we listened to others and determined not to win.

He said it was that decision in Korea that started the Far East down the drain to total communism. If we had released Chiang Kai-shek at the time, for an invasion of the mainland, it would have been the end of both Red China and Korea.

"We cannot win this war against communism by remaining on the defensive," said Chennault. "We have to take the offensive. The communists do that and we have to do the same if we are going to halt them and check them.

"About the people in Indonesia who want to overthrow the Communist government there, I would recommend supporting them and setting up a strong anti-Communist government to save Indonesia for the Free World. In Thailand and Vietnam and Malaya, I would do the same thing."

So the Far East is all but lost. The only salvation, says the General, is to release Chiang Kai-shek to attack Communist China from the South, and Syngman Rhee to attack from the North and communism in Asia will be through.

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W. C. Sullivan

Claire Chennault

NOT RECORDED
167 JUL 3 1958

Wash. Post and Times Herald
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N. Y. Herald Tribune
N. Y. Journal-American
N. Y. Mirror 31
N. Y. Daily News
N. Y. Times
Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

Date JUN 28 1958

77 JUL 3 1958

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: June 12, 1958

FROM : R. R. Roach

SUBJECT: GENERAL CLAIRE LEE CHENNAULT STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM TO HCUA
BUFILE [redacted]

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Enclosed is official transcript of statement by General Chennault to House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) at Washington, D. C., on April 23, 1958. This statement will be released for publication on June 17, 1958. General Chennault, who commanded the Fourteenth United States Air Force in the Far East during World War II, has been a leader in the struggle against international communism for the past twenty years.

Chennault described the communist threat to the United States at this time as "very serious," and he said he did not feel that the American people appreciated how serious the situation is. Among the many dangerous spots in the Far East, he pointed out Japan, where, he stated, more than two per cent of the population are members of the Communist Party adding: "there are enough communist Japanese today to take over the Government."

West Germany is the Soviet Union's biggest worry on both military and economic grounds, Chennault declared. Fear of German military power has been traditional in Russia for centuries, and heavy rearmament of West Germany, therefore, might precipitate a Soviet military attack, according to Chennault.

Equally dangerous to the Soviets' position is the possibility that the increasingly high level of economic prosperity in West Germany might contrast so strongly with communist economic achievements as to discredit thoroughly Marxist theories in the eyes of the world. Chennault stated that he felt the U.S.S.R. might attack the Western powers to prevent such a loss of prestige in its ideologies.

Enclosure

JGS:pwf (4)

[redacted]

JUN 17 1958

NOT RECORDED
15 JUN 17 1958

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Liaison Section
1 - Mr. Short

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

61-7582

30 JUN 26 1958

Memorandum Roach to Belmont
Re: GENERAL CLAIRE LEE CHENNAULT
STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNISM TO HCUA
BUFILE [redacted]

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Chennault advocated that the United States take the offensive at once in the struggle with world communism.

ACTION:

For information. File enclosure for reference, no indexing necessary.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy
BRANIGAN
ROACH

Free China Fund

WE HAVE a letter from Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault, World War II leader of the Flying Tigers and authority on the Far East, asking Americans to help the work of the Free China Fund, which is resettling thousands of Chinese anti-Communist refugees who fled to Hong Kong.

General Chennault, now board chairman of Civil Air Transport Inc., addresses his plea to "every businessman who recognizes the importance of our stake in Asia" and to all other Americans who want to join in demonstrating support of our Chinese Nationalist allies. We are glad to pass his appeal along and support it. Contributions may be sent to General Chennault, 711 Fourteenth Street, N. W., Washington 5, D. C.

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SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER
San Francisco, Calif.
October 4, 1955
Editoral page
Editor Wm. C. Wrenn

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OCT 4 1955
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO

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VICTORY SEEN IF MacARTHUR REGAINS POST

The United States can win the Korean war by restoring Gen. MacArthur as supreme Allied commander in the Far East and supporting a massive invasion of China by the Chinese Nationalists, according to Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault, retired commander of the American Air Force in China.

This was revealed yesterday by Sen. McCarthy (R) of Wisconsin, who placed communications he has received from the former commander of the Flying Tigers in the Congressional Record.

Chennault recommended an American blockade of the Chinese coast to enable the Nationalist forces of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to invade the Chinese mainland from Formosa.

Chennault said the Nationalist invasion would bring:

1. "Almost immediate withdrawal of Red Chinese troops from Korea."

2. A nation-wide rebellion in China against the Communist leaders.

3. Withdrawal of Chinese support to the Communists fighting in Indochina.

Referring to Gen. MacArthur, whom President Truman fired as supreme commander, Chennault said the entire campaign against Communists in the Far East should be placed under him as supreme commander.

Chennault said that, in addition to the blockade, a few wings of the Air Force would be necessary to support the Nationalist air force. Some landing craft to move the invaders and their supplies, he said, would also be necessary, along with experienced military and technical supervision.

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98 MAR 10 1953

Times-Herald
Wash. Post
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N.Y. Herald Tribune
N.Y. Mirror

Date: FEB 19 1953

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